

# SAW SCRATCH ON MRS. HALL'S FACE

## Driver Describes Marks Seen on Funeral Ride

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disclosure was like so much virriol poured into an open wound and at last impelled her to shield her eyes.

But there was no way she could close her ears to the dramatic recitation. Nor could Jimmie Mills, husband of the slain choir singer, when his sister-in-law testified as to his status in his wife's affection.

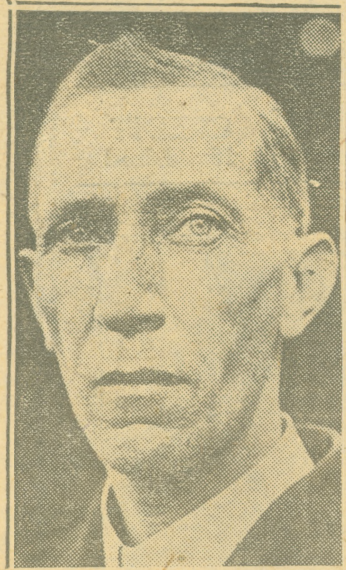
### Jimmie Mills Winces

"My sister told me she cared more for Dr. Hall's little finger than for Jimmie's whole body."

Mills winced and squirmed in his seat as Mrs. Barnhardt startled the courtroom with this response to a question. His face became crimson, his lips moved, but from them came no sound.

The testimony of the witness was the most dramatic which has yet been read into the otherwise drab trial. She told how her sister and Dr. Hall had been lovers for two years before they were murdered on the old Phillips farm.

Once, Mrs. Barnhardt said, she had gone to the Church of St. John the Evangelist in search of her sister. She entered Dr. Hall's study. The minister informed her Mrs. Mills was in the church



JAMES MILLS

proper. The witness looked there in vain and then saw Mrs. Mills issuing from the study.

"She was all flushed," Mrs. Barnhardt declared.

Special Prosecutor Alexander W. Simpson seized upon the point.

"Was her clothing disarranged?" he demanded.

Mrs. Barnhardt colored and she appeared embarrassed.

"Well, she pulled her hat down quickly and—"

The witness then passed her hands down as if smoothing out her dress.

### Admitted Her Love

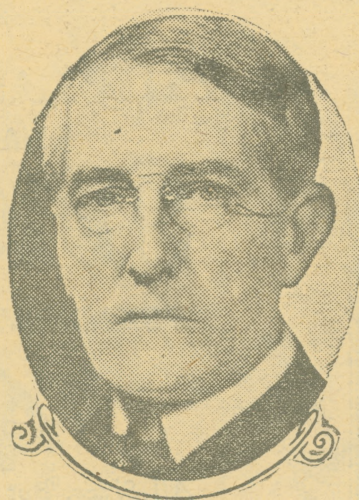
After this experience, Mrs. Barnhardt accused her sister of being in love with the minister, and Mrs. Mills, the witness said, frankly admitted it.

Then she, Mrs. Barnhardt, told of the jealousies displayed by Mrs. Hall and Mrs. Minna Clark, who is charged with being an accessory before the fact. These feelings were displayed at church gatherings and in the course of welfare work.

Throughout the proceedings Mrs. Hall sat as if carved from marble, but she was noticed to fidget when Mrs. Barnhardt disclosed that the minister and Mrs. Mills had planned to run away. According to the witness the lovers intended to go to Japan as soon as Charlotte Mills graduated from high school.

Earlier in the day another witness had declared Mrs. Hall's face was scratched the day her husband was buried in Brooklyn; a street

## WHY I AM WILLING TO WRITE MY COMMENTS ON THIS SAD AND SHOCKING TRAGEDY



JOHN ROACH STRATON, D.D.

When the invitation from The GRAPHIC to write on the Hall-Mills case came to me through my friend, the Rev. Dr. Ralph Welles Keeler, pastor of the Crawford Memorial Church of New York and religious news editor of The GRAPHIC, I was given the assurance that The GRAPHIC would print my comments precisely as I wrote them, and that the paper desired to do a service for God and man by opening its columns for lessons in right living and straight thinking, in the light of this terrible tragedy, which, because of the prominence of those connected with it and the deplorable conditions that brought it forth, has centered the grieved and amazed attention of the whole world.

JOHN ROACH STRATON.

car employee told of Mrs. Mills' last ride to De Russey's Lane for her tryst with the clergyman; still another related having seen an auto containing two men and a woman at De Russey's Lane about 12 o'clock on the night of the murders.

### Talk of Mistrial

For a time it looked as if the state might move for a mistrial in view of a conversation which Robert H. McCarter, chief defense lawyer, had with Edward S. Tillman, a juror, after adjournment Saturday. It concerned the death of Tillman's brother.

It was said such action provided grounds for a mistrial motion, but Senator Simpson, apparently, did not care to press the point, for he made no reference concerning it to the court.

### Clash Over Statement

James A. McKeever, court stenographer, was the first witness today. He identified a statement he had taken August 2 from Bogart Conkling, who was Somerset county sheriff at the time of the murders.

"I wanted to mark this for identification," Simpson said, "because the junior counsel (Case) has charged that Jersey City police and I have manufactured evidence. I want to show that whatever was taken down was taken down accurately."

Senator Case and Simpson clashed at this point.

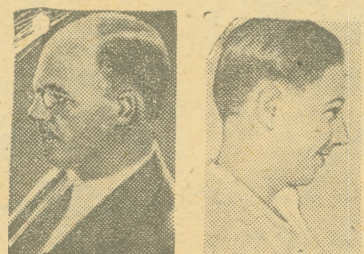
"My wits aren't taken care of by the Japanese servants the junior counsel has at the house," the Special Prosecutor barked as the defense lawyer sought to trip him up.

Case cross-examined McKeever.

Q. How long were you at State Police Headquarters in Somerville?

A. About ten days.

Under cross-examination McKeever testified that the penciled writing now in the ex-sheff's statement was Conkling's addition



Henry Carpenter Danny Mills to the typewritten document so that it might read as he felt his testimony had been given.

### Hints at Strong-Arm Methods

The defense lawyer had McKeever testify that there were a half dozen Jersey City police questioning Conkling. He sought to create the impression that "strong-arm" methods were used by the state investigators.

Case's attack on the detective caused Simpson to bring out that Captain Harry Walsh, one of the state's star sleuths, had been hired by Somerset county some time ago to solve the murder of a state

trooper, that Senator Case at that time highly praised Walsh's methods and obtained for him a share in a \$2,500 reward.

Case wasn't to be denied, however, in his attack.

Q. Do you know if he was the man who chained Willard Straub all night to a bed in State Police Headquarters. A. I never heard of it.

The defense has an affidavit from Straub in which he makes the chained-to-the-bed charge. He



CHARLOTTE MILLS

was taken to State Police Headquarters last summer and questioned for twenty-four hours.

He was subsequently released when he would not admit he was in De Russey's Lane on the night of September 14, 1922.

Alfred Butler, New Brunswick taxi driver, was called.

Q. Did you take anybody to the Hall home the Saturday after the murder? A. Yes, I took a lady there about 10.40 o'clock.

Q. Whom did you see there? A. As I entered the drive, a green car blocked my path. Mr. Henry Carpenter came out the front door, carrying an armful of papers. The top one was a box. He drove away as my fare was paying me.

"Who was your passenger?" Case asked. "I don't know. I never saw her before."

Q. Did she have a little dog with her? A. No.

Case was trying to identify the woman as a reporter from a New York paper.

John Stillwell, employee of John V. Hubbard, New Brunswick undertaker, who drove the hearse that carried Dr. Hall's remains, followed Butler.

Q. You drove the hearse and went to Brooklyn on a boat with the funeral party? A. Yes.

Q. Did you see Mrs. Hall on the boat? A. Yes. Mrs. Hall lifted her veil and we saw a scratch on her face.

The state's contention is that Mrs. Hall received the scratch in a struggle with either Mrs. Mills

or Dr. Hall as they met under the old crap-apple tree on the Phillips farm.

Case was unable to make him change his testimony.

Q. What side of the boat was the hearse on? A. The left side.

Q. Which coach was Mrs. Hall in? A. On the right side, second from front.

Q. Who was with Mrs. Hall? A. I think Willie was with her.

Q. The scratches on her face; how long were they? A. An inch and a half, or two inches.

Q. How many were they? A. I saw one.

Q. Was she heavily veiled? A. Not so heavily but we saw the scratches when she raised her veil to wipe her nose.

Q. Who were these four or five other drivers who were standing around with you? A. I haven't been driving for a couple of years; I can't remember.

Hubbard is now running an elevator.

"Did you notice if the scratch had been freshly made?" asked Simpson.

"It hadn't been there very long."

Simpson showed his satisfaction at this answer. Stillwell watched Mrs. Hall on the Brooklyn ferry four days after the murder.

John J. Meany, a trolley car conductor, followed Stillwell.

It was on Meany's car that Mrs. Mills rode to the end of the line on the murder night.

Q. The night of the murder, did you see Mrs. Mills? A. She got on my car about 8 o'clock. She rode to Buccleuch Park.

Q. What direction did she go?

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## Hall Case Lesson To Youth of U. S., Dr. Straton Says

By REV. J. ROACH STRATON, D.D.

Pastor Calvary Baptist Church, New York (Copyright, 1926, The New York Evening GRAPHIC. All rights reserved. Reproduction prohibited.)

The deeper we go into this terrible tragedy connected with the Hall-Mills case, the more overwhelming becomes its lessons of social responsibility under the conditions of our modern life. Those who are struggling with temptation sometimes try to stifle conscience and smooth the pathway for selfish and sinful indulgence on the ground that even though wrong, the thing indulged in will not affect any one else.

Such reasoning, however, is mere sophistry of the silliest and most harmful kind. There has never been a wrong deed that did not involve others in the dire consequences of it, in addition to the transgressor himself.

If a man dallies with drink and becomes a drunkard he not only thereby ruins his own life, but he also wrecks the happiness of the wife who has loved and trusted him by giving herself to him, and if there are children, he forever mars their own good name and puts upon them a handicap for life.

### Story Teaches Lesson

In that remarkable story, "The Awakening of Helena Richie," by one of our noble American women, we have this lesson taught in striking and searching fashion. She has told us how the beautiful heroine of her story came to live in quiet old Chester; and how one, who was supposed to be her brother, came down often from the great city. But in reality this one was her lover, and their relationship was without the protection of marriage or the sanction of law.

She justified herself in the relationship in her own mind, and sought to soothe her conscience, with the assertion that she had "a right to her own happiness," and that even if there was some small wrong in it, she "was doing harm to no one but herself."

But in the unfolding of the story we are told how an impressionable young man, thinking that she was a pure and sincere single woman, fell desperately in love with her. She tried tactfully to resist his advances, but step by step the truth came to his understanding, until, because of the revelation of unworthiness in the woman whom he had idolized and trusted

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## See 'Curse' in Hall Case As Death Claims 2 More

The unseen hand of death has snatched up two more persons whose names have figured in the Hall-Mills murder case.

Charles E. Waite, an important witness for the prosecution, died last night.

Twenty-four hours earlier Nicholas Bahmer, father of Pearl Bahmer, the girl who found the bodies of the minister and his choir singer, died in a sanitarium at Scotch Plains, N. J.

Judge Waite, as he was known, was to have been called within a few days to testify that the three bullets introduced at the Somerville trial were the ones which brought death to Mrs. Eleanor R. Mills. He had been in ill health for several months, but his condition was not considered serious. The forming of a blood



Pearl Bahmer

clot on the brain brought about the end.

Recognized as an expert in his line, Waite had perfected a system of bullet identification by which the principles of fingerprinting are linked up with murder bullets from the suspected gun. The system has been recognized by the leading authorities.

Bahmer had been a patient at the Scotch Plains sanitarium since last May. On November 3 his daughter visited him and begged forgiveness for the serious charges she had made against him four years ago, soon after she and Raymond Schneider came across the bodies of Dr. Hall and Mrs. Mills on the old Phillips farm.

The dying man forgave her and passed into a coma from which he did not rally.